

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 154

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach Micheal Burt and the Riverdale High School girls' basketball team upon winning the 2007 TSSAA Class AAA Girls' Basketball State Championship.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable athletic team is the Riverdale High School girls' basketball team, who recently won the 2007 TSSAA Class AAA Girls' Basketball State Title; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Micheal Burt, the Riverdale High School Lady Warriors basketball team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2006-2007 basketball season, establishing a state best record of thirty-eight wins against only three losses, claiming the Girls' Basketball District 7-AAA Title, their third straight District 7-AAA Tournament Championship, and the Region 4-AAA Title on their road to winning the TSSAA Class AAA Girls' Basketball State Championship; and

WHEREAS, claiming a Sub-State win for the first time since 1979, the Lady Warriors of Riverdale High made their first appearance in the state tournament in twenty-eight years, as they defeated Oak Ridge, 64-53, in the first round, vanquished Memphis East, 59-42, in the semi-finals, and conquered Memphis Northside, 51-40, in the championship game to become Rutherford County's first Class AAA basketball State Champions since 1924; and

WHEREAS, having compiled the most wins in a single season in school history and currently holding a twenty-six wins and no losses record on their home court for over two years, the members of this extremely talented and gifted basketball team are: Seniors Anne Marie Lanning #30, Alex Bivens #15, Nikki Talley #33, and Jessica Whitens #21; Juniors Shellina

Burgess #55 and Morgann Swoape #34; Sophomores Clarke Davis #42, Payton Dickinson #32, and Hillary Grider #23; and Freshmen Natalie Lanning #25, Candace Spurlock #40, and Rachel Orman #45; and

WHEREAS, Riverdale's regular season Most Valuable Player, Anne Marie Lanning was tabbed as the State Tournament's Most Valuable Player in addition to being selected to the All-State, All-Region, and All-District Tournament Teams, and chosen as the 2007 TSSAA Miss Basketball for Class AAA; and

WHEREAS, during her incredible career at Riverdale High, Miss Lanning is the all-time leading scorer at Riverdale with 2,607 points, holds the school records for most points in a single season, 998, and most points in a game, 45, and is a Top 10% student, having signed to play college basketball for Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, another Top 10% student, Riverdale Lady Warrior Alex Bivens scored 1,403 points during her career and was selected to the All-District, All-Region, and All-State tournament teams; and

WHEREAS, Riverdale High School Valedictorian Nikki Talley was named to the All-District and All-Region tournament teams, Lady Warrior Shellina Burgess was tabbed for the All-District and All-State tournament teams, and teammate Jessica Whitens is yet another Top 10% student in addition to being a multi-sport athlete as a member of the Lady Warriors softball team; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Micheal Burt was named the District 7-AAA Coach of the Year, a testament to his unflagging commitment to excellence and his uncommon coaching abilities; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Head Coach Micheal Burt's able leadership, the Riverdale Lady Warriors basketball team also benefited from the hard work and guidance of Assistant Coaches Brianne Dodgen, Tisha Hayes, Jamey Arnold and Cuyler Lanier; and

WHEREAS, playing a vital role in preserving Riverdale's success, Jackie Donovan served as Manager and Aubrey Jernigan, Amber Bailey, Nicole Petoskey, and Jennilee Lenker were capable Freshmen Helpers; and

WHEREAS, displaying great sportsmanship and outstanding character throughout, the members and coaches of the Riverdale High School girls' basketball team conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, on the hardwood, Riverdale's starting five combined for 2,333 points in 41 games while the Lady Warriors as a team maintain an average GPA of 3.42, resounding evidence that the Riverdale High girls' basketball team is dedicated to excellence both on the court and in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a memorable championship season, but also surely point toward their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body should recognize this amazing and talented group of young women; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the coaches and players of the Riverdale High School girls' basketball team upon achieving an extraordinary level of success during the 2006-2007 season and capturing the TSSAA Class AAA Girls' Basketball State Title and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.